

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-34. (cancelled).

35. (new) A container for retaining a surgical component comprising:
a carrier having a storage area for retaining a surgical component, and legs for engaging a carrier system; and
a removable cover attached to the storage area of the carrier.

36. (new) The container of claim 35, wherein the cover further comprises an upwardly-extending handle.

37. (new) The container of claim 35, wherein the surgical component is a bone screw.

38. (new) The container of claim 35, wherein the storage area has a hole for receiving the surgical component.

39. (new) The container of claim 38, wherein the surgical component has a head portion configured to lie at least partially above the hole, and a shaft portion configured to lie at least partially below the hole.

40. (new) The container of claim 35, wherein the cover has inwardly-extending elements for engaging the storage area of the carrier.

41. (new) The container of claim 40, wherein the inwardly-extending elements are teeth.

41. (new) The container of claim 35, wherein the legs extend substantially transverse from the storage area.

42. (new) The container of claim 35, wherein at least one leg has a runner.

43. (new) The container of claim 35, wherein at least one leg is configured to engage a rail of the carrier system.

44. (new) The container of claim 35, wherein the container is configured to be placed next to another container in the carrier system.
45. (new) A carrier system comprising:
at least first and second rails;
at least first and second carriers disposed along the first and second rails; and
first and second removable covers attached to the first and second carriers,
respectively;
wherein the first and second carriers are configured to retain a surgical component.
46. (new) The carrier system of claim 45, wherein the first carrier has at least one leg configured to be disposed between the first and second rails.
47. (new) The carrier system of claim 45, wherein the first carrier is slidably disposed along the first and second rails.
48. (new) The carrier system of claim 45, wherein the first carrier is retained by the first and second rails.
49. (new) The carrier system of claim 45, further comprising a channel disposed between the first and second rails, and wherein the surgical component extends into the channel.
50. (new) The carrier system of claim 45, wherein the surgical component is a bone screw.
51. (new) The carrier system of claim 45, wherein the first removable cover is removable from the first carrier independent of the second removable cover.